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ORDER 2002-1-16

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Action on IATA Agreement
Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 29th day of January, 2002

Agreement adopted by the Tariff :
Coordinating Conferences of the :
International Air Transport Association :
relating to passenger service matters :

Served: February 1, 2002

Docket OST-2001-9583 - 3
R-1 through R-23
R-25 through R-30

ORDER

Various members of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have filed an agreement with the Department under section 41308 and 40399 of Title 49 of the United States Code (the Code), and Part 303 of the Department's regulations. The agreement was adopted at the twenty-second Passenger Services Conference (PSC) held in Vancouver, Oct 24-25, 2000. 1/

The agreement consists of 30 resolutions and recommended practices (R.P.'s) affecting passenger services.2/ They address codes, notices, formats and procedures relating to the issuance of electronic and paper tickets, boarding passes and other travel documents; miscellaneous charges orders (MCO); standard interline agreements and reservation procedures; baggage handling and checking procedures; refunds, the common use self service (CUSS) Kiosk; the numbering system for traffic documents; and the glossary of terms. 3/

1/ IATA memorandum PSC/Reso/106, and PSC/Reso/107 filed with the Department on April 30, 2001. IATA's twenty-first Joint ATA/IATA PSC was held in conjunction with the twenty-second IATA Passenger Service Conference.

2/ The individual resolutions and recommended practices, along with their subject matter, are listed in the Appendix. The remaining 13 resolutions and R.P.'s were submitted for information only because they are among the 37 resolutions and R.P.'s that are the subject of a separate application seeking an exemption from the Department to permit IATA to amend them without the review and approval of the Department. (See Docket OST-01-9575) The resolutions listed for information only are 721 (Billing and Settlement Plan Passenger Ticket and Baggage Check - Technical Specifications), 722a (Off Premise Transitional Automated Ticket (OPTAT)), 722e (Automated Ticket/Boarding Pass (ATB) and Multiple Purpose Document (MPD) - Coupon-By-Coupon Technical Specification), 730 (Security Features for Accountable Passenger Traffic Documents), 743b (Baggage Identification Chart), 1707 (Standard Symbols for Description of Standard Message Formats), 1707a (Data Field Dictionary for DCS Passenger Messages), 1707b (Data Element Dictionary for DCS Passenger Messages), 1719 (Passenger Final Sales (Post-Departure Reconciliation) Message (PFS)), 1719a (Frequent Traveler List (FTL) Message), 1719c (Electronic Ticket List Message (ETL)), 1723 (Standard ATB Boarding Pass Wallet), and 1743e (Baggage Regularity Report).

3/ We will act on Radio Frequency (RF) Specifications for Interline Baggage (R.P. 1740c) in a separate order.

Existing Resolutions and Recommended Practices: These proposals involve non-substantive changes, essentially of a technical, editorial or administrative nature, to existing approved resolutions and recommended practices, and appear to be in conformity with our substantive policies and concerns. As such, they raise no public interest issues and will be approved.

New Resolutions and Recommended Practices: Interline Married Segment Control (R.P. 1777a): Interline Married Segment Control (IMSC) is the designation of two or more segments in a contiguous interline routing as a "marriage". This enables two or more members having an agreement between themselves to extend their own inventory control mechanisms beyond the scope of their host systems, encompassing bookings made on another system. The agreement adopts a new recommended practice to facilitate implementation of this mechanism industry-wide. The recommended practice sets forth technical procedures and specifications, raises no public interest issues, and will be approved.

Furthermore, we conclude that the approved portions of the agreement should be granted immunity for the operation of the antitrust laws to the extent necessary to permit their implementation. In general, they amend existing provisions already approved and immunized by the Department. Where new provisions are created, they perform administrative and facilitatory functions similar to other resolutions that have been approved and immunized. As a result, none raises immunity issues not previously considered, and the conferral of immunity upon them is consistent with our policy of conferring immunity on amendments coextensively with the underlying agreements.

Acting under Title 49 of the United States Code, and particularly sections 40101, 40103, 41300, and 41309:

1. We do not find resolutions R-1 through R-23 and R-25 through R-30 of the agreement in Docket OST-2001-9583, as set forth in the attached Appendix, to be adverse to the public interest, in violation of the Code, or likely to lessen competition substantially.
2. This agreement is a product of the IATA tariff conference machinery, which the Department found to be anticompetitive but nevertheless accepted on foreign policy and comity grounds by Order 85-5-32, May 6, 1985. The Department found that important transportation needs were not obtainable by reasonably available alternative means having materially less anticompetitive effects.

Order 85-5-32 contemplates that the products of fare and rate conferences will be subject to individual scrutiny and will be approved, provided they are of a kind specifically sanctioned by Order 85-5-32 and are not adverse to the public interest or in violation of the Code. As with the underlying IATA conference machinery, upon approval of a conference agreement, immunity for

that agreement must be conferred under the Code. Consequently, we will grant antitrust immunity to the agreement in Docket OST-00-8067, as set forth in finding paragraph 1 above, subject to the conditions imposed.

ACCORDINGLY,

We approve and grant antitrust immunity to the agreement contained in Docket OST-00-8067, as set forth in finding paragraph 1 above, subject to the conditions imposed.

By:

Read C. Van Water
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

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on the World Wide Web at*
<http://www.dot.gov/dotinfo/general/orders/aviation.html>

Docket OST-00-9583 <u>Resolution</u>	<u>Description</u>
R-1; 720a	Passenger Ticket and Baggage Check-Issuance and Honouring Procedures (Amending)
R-2; 722	Transitional Automated Ticket (TAT) (Amending)
R-3; 722	Transitional Automated Ticket (TAT) (Amending) (April 1, 2001)
R-4; 725	Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO) Technical Specifications (Amending)
R-5; 725a	Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO) Issuance and Honouring Procedures by Members (Amending)
R-6; 725b	Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO) Issuance and Honouring Procedures (Agents) (Amending)
R-7; 1706	Common Use Self Service (CUSS) (Amending)
R-8; 1706d	Non-ATB Document Specifications For Common Use Self Service Kiosks (New)
R-9; 1706e	Paper Specifications-documents to be Printed By a General Purpose Printer (GPP) in a Common Use Self-serve (CUSS) Kiosk (New)
R-10; 1720a	Standard Thirteen-Digit Numbering System For Traffic Documents (Amending)
R-11; 708	Use of Standard Operational Messages (Amending)

Docket OST-00-9583	
<u>Resolution</u>	<u>Description</u>
R-12; 709	Baggage Transfer Message (BTM) (New)
R-13; 722c	Automated Ticket/Boarding Pass Version 2 (ATB2) (Amending)
R-14; 722f	Electronic Ticket/Electronic Miscellaneous Documents-Airline (Amending)
R-15; 722g	Electronic Ticket/Electronic Miscellaneous Documents Neutral (Amending)
R-16; 727	Tickets – Alterations to Flight Coupons (Amending)
R-17; 728	Code Designators For Ticket and Baggage Check (Amending)
R-18; 737	Refunds (Amending)
R-19; 784	Electronic Reservation Services Providers (Amending)
R-20; 1008	Glossary of Commonly Used Air Passenger Terms (Amending)
R-21; 1708	Passenger Name List Message (PNL)/ Additions Deletions List Message (ADL) (Amending)
R-22; 1716	Passenger Information List (PIL) (Amending)
R-23; 1718	Passenger Transfer Message (PTM) (Amending)
R-25; 1743a	Tracing Procedure for Missing Checked Baggage (Amending)

Docket OST-00-9583

Resolution

Description

R-26; 1745

Baggage Services Messenges
(Amending)

R-27; 1748

Baggage Construction Standards
(Amending)

R-28; 1774

Protection of Privacy and Processing
of Personal Data used in International
Air Transport of Passengers and Cargo
(Amending)

R-29; 1777

Married Segment Control
(Amending)

R-30; 1777a

Interline Married Segment Control
(New)